

A second important recovery has been received from Mr. C.L.E. Orton, of Moora. He forwarded to Dr. Serventy, of C.S.I.R.O., who sent it on to us, band number 1380, which was placed on a grey teal at Wardering Lake, Woodanilling, on February 14, 1953. The teal was shot by Mr. Orton on a swamp at Moora on opening day, December 18, 1960. The bird was then in its eighth year of banding, which is an interesting record of longevity.

FURTHER BOAT LOSSES

Accidents to fishing craft continue to happen at a rate almost comparable with road traffic mishaps. The 30-ft. cray boat "Galeb" was only 4½ hours out from Fremantle on her maiden voyage on December 2 when she hit a reef at Ledge Point and sank in 10 minutes. Both Skipper R. Latter, of Medina, and his crew hand reached shore safely. The "Galeb", which was valued at £6,000, was not insured. She was later washed ashore and patched up sufficiently to be towed back to Fremantle.

The Australian Pearling Company's cray boat "Trixen", a converted pearling lugger, broke a tail shaft at Lancelin on December 29. She was taken in tow by the 68-ft. l.f.b. "Nanango", which is owned by the same company.

The biggest cray boat on the coast, the 270-ton "Laakanuki", suffered damage when her stern drifted on to the stone groyne at the Fremantle fishing boat harbour on December 27. One tail shaft was bent and will require replacing and one of the ship's two gear boxes was also damaged. A former naval refrigeration lighter, the "Laakanuki" was just on her way back to Jurien Bay with bait for her fleet of catcher-boats after the Christmas recess when the mishap occurred.

ADDITIONAL SANCTUARIES

In recent weeks five new sanctuaries have been set aside as reserves under section 29 (g) of the Land Act. The first is at Elashgin Soak in the Wyalkatchem Road District. It is a "C" class reserve, No. 19002, set aside as a picnic ground and for the conservation of flora and fauna. It is 64.0 acres in extent but, as its principal purpose will be as a local picnic area, it will not receive more than general oversight by the Department, and control of the reserve has, under the Land Act, been vested in the local Road Board.

Although Reserve 25210 of 3,803 acres at Lake Eganu has been set aside as a waterfowl breeding area, shooters will be allowed to operate there during the open season for wild ducks. Notwithstanding that the purposes of the reserve are recreation and the conservation of flora and fauna, it is considered its main purpose is the protection of waterfowl breeding habitat. Control has therefore been vested under the Land Act in the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee.

Another wetland area has been reserved in the Albany district. It comprises Lake Powell or Grassmere in the western section of the Albany Road District. This reserve is 4.58 acres in extent.

A third section of wetland habitat has been set aside as "A" Class Reserve 25798. It includes Lakes Unicup and Little Unicup in the western section of the Cranbrook Road District, between Lake Muir and Mordalup. This reserve comprises 7,000 acres and has been vested in the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee.

The fifth reserve comprises most of Chiddarcooping Rock, a huge granite outcrop, and a section of the surrounding "wodjil" * country. For the time being the reserve will be confined to 6,523 acres but it will probably be increased to take in the whole of the outcrop when a lease over an adjoining area expires in about 10 years' time. This reserve, which is in the Westonia Road District, has also been vested in the Committee.

These additional sanctuaries increase the total number under the Advisory Committee's jurisdiction to 101, and the total area to 2,766,282 acres. Of these, 30 are vested in the Committee under the Land Act while the remaining 70 are subject to the control of the Committee pursuant to the provisions of the Fauna Protection Act.

With the progressive agricultural and industrial development of the State these sanctuaries must become increasingly important and require a progressive degree of active protection and management. For the present, due to shortages of staff and finance, departmental activities must largely be restricted to occasional inspection to ensure that they are not being subjected to illicit grazing or to other interference. Records of their

* "Wodjil" country is a term used to describe a peculiar association of plants occurring in sand and lateritic gravel soils of the eastern wheatbelt.

general ecology, including floral and faunal associations, soil groups and general conditions will be made as opportunity offers.